

Business Crime, Regulatory Investigations and Civil Fraud Group

Bird & Bird has extensive experience with complex civil and criminal fraud related regulatory investigations. The global trend to crack down on bribery and corruption, false accounting, fraud, market abuse and other illegal activities has led to an increase in enforcement activity. We have a long established practice of advising corporations, professionals and individuals from various industry sectors. Bird & Bird is also experienced in advising clients about making a voluntary disclosure to regulatory bodies and the related consequences and risks.

In particular, members of this group have expertise in the areas of:

- ▼ International risk management and compliance advice
- ▼ HMRC investigations and associated fraud
- ▼ Pension fraud
- ▼ Corporate fraud including asset tracing
- ▼ Market abuse such as defrauding shareholders and the public
- ▼ Money laundering
- ▼ Frauds on client funds
- ▼ FSA investigations
- ▼ Self reporting and investigations conducted by the SFO
- ▼ Employee fraud such as diversion of contracts, commercial opportunities and theft of monies
- ▼ Bribery of foreign individuals and public officials
- ▼ FCPA/ OECD advice
- ▼ Mortgage/ valuation fraud

Bird & Bird's international team in 21 offices across Asia and EMEA enables us quickly and effectively to respond to cross-boarder elements of regulatory and civil/criminal investigations. We are confident in providing legal expertise surrounding The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials and country-specific legislation. Bird & Bird is also highly experienced in conducting arbitrations and international litigations involving multi-jurisdictional fraud.

Bird & Bird delivers seminars and provides clients with early risk management advice with the aim of identifying, and where possible enabling clients to avoid, disputes before they arise. This involves, for example, advising clients on hospitality, educational trips and those operating in jurisdictions where facilitation payments are common practice. Bird & Bird is also frequently consulted by other professionals and whistleblowers seeking legal advice when faced with fraudulent activities of their clients. We have substantial experience in guiding clients through all stages of making reports to the relevant authorities and advising on the benefits and risks involved.

Where appropriate, Mediation is also a technique utilised to encourage sensitive, creative and confidential settlements. We have experienced Mediators within our team on hand to offer specialist advice to clients embarking on ADR as well as a dedication as team to ensure all our Dispute Resolution people worldwide have extensive Mediation training.

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‘The lawyers are quick to evaluate the options and provide pragmatic solutions, taking the time to understand exactly what you’re looking to accomplish.’

Chambers & Partners 2009

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Summing up the team’s appeal, one client said: ‘The lawyers are quick to review the options available, and provide clear and pragmatic advice.’

Chambers Europe 2009

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Peter Knight is described as ‘first-rate.’

Legal 500 2009

BIRD & BIRD



Our extensive experience, cross-boarder dispute resolution capability and distinct sector based approach set us apart from our competitors and ensure that our clients receive high quality, innovative and pro-active legal advice.

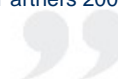
Recent cases

- ✓ **CEO of AIM listed company:** acting and advising on a multi jurisdictional fraud case involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty, conspiracy to defraud and breach of the Companies Act. Advising in subsequent FSA investigation involving allegations of misleading the market and bribery and corruption.
- ✓ **Major US corporation:** high profile arbitration concerning an insurance claim as a response to insider trading advising and acting together with a team of US lawyers.
- ✓ **High net worth Estate:** tracing and recovering assets for the Estate of a victim of global fraud in a multi-jurisdictional environment.
- ✓ **Blue chip company:** acting for a blue-chip company that has been subject to fraudulent activities by an employee.
- ✓ **Significant international contractor:** acting and advising on a fraud perpetrated by a joint venture partner in a major construction and engineering project.
- ✓ **High net worth beneficiaries under a will trust:** advising on a HMRC investigation and liaising with international authorities and tax authorities.
- ✓ **Substantial UK Plc:** a dispute concerning allegations of bribery of foreign officials under the Anti Terrorism (Crime and Security) Act 2001, the Corruption and Transparency International Act, Enterprise Act 2002 related OECD Anti-Corruption initiatives and subsequent settlement under the first ever Civil Recovery Order (2008).
- ✓ **Financial Institution:** obtaining injunctive relief against multiple defendants in proceedings in respect of alleged fraud.
- ✓ **Major Kuwaiti enterprise:** acting and advising on fraud by one of its Directors involving transactions and money transfers in multi jurisdictions
- ✓ **Significant Spanish Bank:** acting in the alleged fraud of an insured and factored Hungarian trade transaction.
- ✓ **International Construction company:** acting and advising in relation to alleged bribery and corruption against its agents and Joint Venture partner



International head of litigation and dispute resolution, Jane Player is one of the main draws for clients, who 'admire and respect her intelligence and practical outlook.'

Chambers & Partners 2008



The firm's civil fraud team is highlighted for its dominance of the niche area of art-related fraud.

Chambers & Partners 2009



For further information, please contact

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